Contract for the sale of Liquor at Quilon.

199. **MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI** (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): With reference to the answer given to interpellation No. 36 asked at the meeting of the Council held on the 22nd Karkatakam 1100, will the Government be pleased to furnish information on the following points :—

(*a*) with reference to the answer to part (*c*) of the question wherein it was stated that the amount of decrease in the rentals of the arrack shop at Quilon during the years 1099 and 1100 was Rs. 810 and that this decrease was due to the fall in the consumption of arrack, what quantity of arrack has been sold from this shop in each of the years 1096 to 1100, and what were the rentals during the respective years ;

(*b*) if the consumption of arrack in this shop has fallen in any year, what was the fall due to ;

(*c*) whether the contract for this shop is given to the very same Mr. Aiyappan Pillai Krishna Pillai, contractor for the opium and ganja shop at Quilon ; and

(*d*) how many bidders took part in the auction on the day when this arrack shop was auctioned, and by whom and to what respective amounts were the bids raised ?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The information required by the Member is given below :

Year.	*Quantity of arrack consumed. Proof gallons.*	*Average consumption per annum. Proof gallons.*	*Rental.* Rs.
1096	1,742·01	1,612·25	3,580
1097	1,482·50		3,580
1098	1,558·00	1,455·10	5,615
1099	1,352·20		5,615
1100	1,402·70	1,402·70	4,805

(*b*) No specific reason can be assigned for the fall in consumption in any particular shop.

(*c*) The shop was not given to Mr. Aiyappan Pillai Krishna Pillai, but was purchased by him in open auction.

(*d*) The Excise Commissioner states that the information is not available.

Change in the period of contracts in the Excise Department from two to four years.

200. **MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI** (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) the various items for which biennial contracts are given in the Excise Department ;

(*b*) the amount realised by the Government from biennial contracts for the supply of arrack from the year 1090 to 1100 ;

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(*c*) whether the Excise Commissioner had recommended to the Government that any of the items now given on biennial contract may be given on contract for a term of four years; and if so, the reasons for his recommendation;

(*d*) who is responsible for the loss incurred by giving contracts for a consecutive term of four years;

(*e*) whether it is on the 5th February 1928 that the present Excise Commissioner completes his 55th year of age;

(*f*) when his term of office terminates;

(*g*) how the succeeding Excise Commissioner can be held responsible for the confusion and loss entailed by the grant of contracts for four consecutive years; and

(*h*) whether they will decide the matter after enquiring into the reasons that prompted the Excise Commissioner on this occasion to give contracts for four consecutive years?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) (1) Contract for the manufacture and supply of jaggery and toddy arrack for the whole State except the Devicolam taluk.

(2) Contract for the manufacture and sale of jaggery arrack in the Devicolam taluk.

(3) Contracts for the privilege of vending jaggery arrack, toddy arrack, and toddy in independent shops.

(*b*) No amounts are realised by Government for the supply of arrack.

(*c*) Yes. Contracts referred to in items (1) and (2) of the answer to part (*a*).

It has been the policy of the department not to call for tenders for these contracts, but to renew them once in every two years for reasonable rates. These contracts have thus been held for a long time by the Nadar family by biennial renewals. This year, it was decided to call for tenders in order to enable Travancoreans to take part in the contracts. As both contracts required a large initial outlay for the successful working of the same, it was considered that it would not be possible for a new man to invest such a large capital and take up the contracts for a period of only two years with the risk of losing them at the end of that period. One or two intending tenderers represented that, unless they had a guarantee that the contracts would be with them for at least four years, it would not pay them to come forward. As the initial outlay was roughly estimated at about Rs. 1,00,000 it was considered fair that a period of four years should be guaranteed. Hence this was done, but with the provision that the rates will be liable to revision at the end of two years.

(*d*) There is no loss to Government by giving the contracts for four years.

(*e*) Yes.

(*f*) Ordinarily on the 5th February 1928.

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[Mr. P. N. Krishna Pillai.]

(*g*) In view of the answer to part (*d*), this does not arise.

(*h*) The Excise Commissioner is not the officer who grants the contracts. It is the Government who grant them after taking into consideration all the circumstances of the case.

Liquor Shops near Darisanamcope Village.

201. **MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI** (*Tovala*): (*a*) Are the Government aware:

(i) that representations were made to the Government to remove the liquor shops situated on the entrance to the village of Darisanamcope in the Tovala taluk; and

(ii) that this shop is still allowed to remain in a place of public resort quite against the recent circular of the department?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to remove it to a distant and out of the way place?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) (i) The answer is in the negative.

(ii) The location of the shop is not in contravention of the circular.

(*b*) The Excise Commissioner has promised to consider the matter in the next abkari contract for 1102-1103.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know whether the circular referred to makes any mention of the places of public resort?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): There is no information on that point.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know how it was possible for the Government to say that the location of the shop is not in contravention of the circular without having that information?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): It is based on the report of the Commissioner.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know whether he answers the question on behalf of Government or for himself?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): I do not catch the member.

PRESIDENT: Is the Member rising to a point of order?

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Yes, I wish a ruling from the chair.

PRESIDENT: Then you may state your point clearly.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): I want to know whether the Member answers on behalf of the Government or not.

PRESIDENT: I fail to understand. Will the Member make his meaning more clear?

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): That requires a certain explanation to the answer given to part (ii) of my question.

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